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EXAMINER

BELIVEAU, SCOTT E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/692,920

Applicant(s)

BANKER ET AL

Examiner

Scott Beliveau

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 32, 34, 35 and 38-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 32, 34, 35 and 38-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. In particular, the later-filed application must be an application for a patent for an invention which is also disclosed in the prior application (the parent or original nonprovisional application or provisional application); the disclosure of the invention in the parent application and in the later-filed application must be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. See *Transco Products, Inc. v. Performance Contracting, Inc.*, 38 F.3d 551, 32 USPQ2d 1077 (Fed. Cir. 1994). The earlier 09/590,488 application illustrates an “indexing function” in Figure 8C, however it does not disclose details as to the particular usage of the illustrated function as claimed.
2. Applicant’s claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged. However, the provisional application upon which priority is claimed fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 1-5, 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 32, 34, 35, and 38-58 of this application. The provisional application briefly discloses the ability to index listings with left and right arrows by selectable categories such as year or rating (Page 8). However, the brief disclosure fails to adequately disclose the claimed invention set forth in the amended claims. For example, the earlier filing is wholly silent as to the newly added limitations of “defining each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices according to a respective range of values of the media information parameter, each respective range of values being determined according to a first threshold defining a predetermined number of media titles” (Claim 1), “determining a range of values of the media information parameter

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corresponding to each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices, the range of values being determined according to the number of media titles in the portion of the received media information corresponding to the respective range of values” (Claims 2 and 52), and “enabling a plurality of user-selectable indices for indexing displayed media titles, each user-selectable index corresponding to a range of at least one year” (Claim 17). Accordingly, the instant application shall be examined on the basis of its filing date or 20 October 2000.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 23 February 2005. These drawings are approved.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 32, 34, 35, and 38-58 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to applicant's traversal of the OFFICIAL NOTICE previously presented stating that it is notoriously well known in the art for cable service providers to charge a fee in connection with subscribing to their services, the examiner cites the Beck reference (US Pat No. 3,676,580) as evidence (Col 1, Line 71-72) that the particular practice by which cable subscribers are charged a fee or are billed monthly for service is clearly capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being a well known practice at least as early as the filing of the Beck reference or 01 June 1970.

Claim Objections

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5. Claims 1 and 52 are objected to because the recitation of “the user-selected category” lacks proper antecedent basis. For the purpose of art evaluation, the examiner shall presume that the claims have been amended to read “a user-selected category”. Appropriate correction is required.
6. Claim 40 is objected to because the recitation of “the information parameter” lacks proper antecedent basis. For the purpose of art evaluation, the examiner shall presume that the claims have been amended to read “the media information parameter”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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9. Claims 1-5, 16, 32, 34, 35, 38-45, 48, 51-55, 57, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. (US Pat No. 5,850,218) in view of Eick et al. (US Pat No. 5,812,124).

In consideration of claim 1, the LaJoie et al. reference discloses a method for “providing media information to a user” implemented via a “media services client device” [6] which is coupled to a “programmable media services service device” [15]. The method comprises “receiving media information corresponding to a plurality of accessible media” and subsequently, “configuring a display order of the media titles in the received media information according to the value of a media information parameter” such as Title – Letter (Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 26) and “a user-selected category” such as Title – Theme (Col 26, Line 27 – 17). The reference further discloses that the system is operable when sorting by Title – Theme to further secondarily sort by any other set of the program characteristics. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the LaJoie et al. reference, if necessary, so as to secondarily or “provide simultaneously in the display order” a sort by Title – Letter so as to allow for the user to further easily operate the set-top terminal and navigate through the abundance of programs and services available in the cable television system. Accordingly, the reference enables the user to Browse by Title – Theme – Letter (Col 27, Lines 18-33) such that the interactive media guide” (Figures 21-23) is “configured . . . the plurality of user-selectable indices for indexing the media titles in the display order”. The system “responsive to a user selecting a first indexing prompt” (ex. Letter) subsequently “provides

simultaneously in the display order at least a portion of the media titles corresponding to the first user-selectable index and the user-selected category (Col 28, Lines 16-49).

The reference, however, is silent with respect to “defining each index . . . according to a respective range of values” (ex. the range may correspond to all individual letters for which a television program exists {A-Z}, or all titles that start with just N {N* or N – Nzzz . . .}, or titles all titles that start with a particular letter combination {NO, NO*, or NO – Nozzzz . . .}) “ . . . being determined according to a first threshold defining a predetermined number of media titles” whereupon “each user-selectable index corresponding to the media titles in the received media information [is] determined by the respective range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to the user-selectable index”. In a related art pertaining to the display of program guide information, the Eick et al. reference provides evidence that it is known in the art to “define each index . . . according to a respective range of values . . . being determined according to a first threshold defining a predetermined number of media titles” whereupon “each user-selectable index corresponding to the media titles in the received media information [is] determined by the respective range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to the user-selectable index” (Figures 16 – 22; Col 9, Line 51 – Col 10, Line 19; Col 89 – Col 110 – “Select form code”). For example, Eick et al. discloses that the generation of indexed menu lists based upon a threshold of no more than 5 entries (the illustrations are consistent with the source code which defines the limit as being 6 entries contrary to the earlier recitation of 5 entries in the disclosure). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the Lajoie et al. “selectable indices” so as to be based/dependent upon a

threshold of the number of underlying entries for the purpose of advantageously providing a view of a large schedule of data items with a sufficiently small number of items in order to provide the view with an opportunity to make a reasoned selection therefrom (Eick et al.: Col 2, Lines 30-36).

In consideration of claim 2, the LaJoie et al. reference discloses a method for “providing media information to a user” implemented via a “media services client device” [6] which is coupled to a “programmable media services service device” [15]. The method comprises “receiving media information corresponding to a plurality of accessible media” and subsequently, “configuring an interactive media guide with a display order of the media titles in the received media information according to the value of a media information parameter” such as Title – Letter (Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 26) and “according to a portion of the received media information corresponding to a user-selected category” such as Title – Theme (Col 26, Line 27 – 17). The reference further discloses that the system is operable when sorting by Title – Theme to further secondarily sort by any other set of program characteristics. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the LaJoie et al. reference, if necessary, so as to secondarily or “provide simultaneously in the display order” a sort by Title – Letter so as to allow for the user to further easily operate the set-top terminal and navigate through the abundance of programs and services available in the cable television system. Accordingly, the reference enables the user to Browse by Title – Theme – Letter (Col 27, Lines 18-33) such that the “interactive media guide” (Figures 21-23) is “configured with the plurality of user-selectable indices for indexing the media titles in the display order” and is “presented . .

. having a plurality of indexing prompts corresponding to respective user-selectable indices”. The system subsequently “receives a first user input identifying a first indexing prompt” (ex. Letter) “corresponding to a first user-selectable index” and “responsive to the first user input, [the system] provides simultaneously in the display order at least a portion of the media titles corresponding to the first user-selectable index and the user-selected category (Col 28, Lines 16-49).

The reference, however, is silent with respect to “determining a range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices, the range of values being determined according to the number of media titles in the portion of the received media information corresponding to the respective range of values”. In a related art pertaining to the display of program guide information, the Eick et al. reference provides evidence that it is known in the art to “determining a range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices, the range of values being determined according to the number of media titles in the portion of the received media information corresponding to the respective range of values” (Figures 16 – 22; Col 9, Line 51 – Col 10, Line 19; Col 89 – Col 110 – “Select form code”). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the Lajoie et al. “selectable indices” so as to be based upon the particular number of underlying entries for the purpose of advantageously providing a view of a large schedule of data items with a sufficiently small number of items in order to provide the view with an opportunity to make a reasoned selection therefrom (Eick et al.: Col 2, Lines 30-36).

In consideration of claim 52, the LaJoie et al. reference discloses a “media services client device for providing media to a user” [6] comprising a “processor” [30] and “memory for storing media information . . . corresponding to a plurality of respective accessible media” [32] which are received via a server [15]. The “processor” is subsequently configured to “cause a display order of media titles in the received media information according to the value of a media information parameter” such as Title – Letter (Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 26) and “according to a portion of the received media information” as defined by a “user-selected category” such as Title – Theme (Col 26, Line 27 – 17). The reference further discloses that the system is operable when sorting by Title – Theme to further secondarily sort by any other set of the program characteristics. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the LaJoie et al. reference, if necessary, so as to secondarily or “provide simultaneously in the first display order” a sort by Title – Letter so as to allow for the user to further easily operate the set-top terminal and navigate through the abundance of programs and services available in the cable television system. Accordingly, the reference enables the user to Browse by Title – Theme – Letter (Col 27, Lines 18-33) such that the “interactive media guide” (Figures 21-23) is “enabled. . . with the plurality of user-selectable indices for indexing the media titles in the display order” that is “presented . . . having a plurality of indexing prompts corresponding to respective user-selectable indices”. The system subsequently “receives a first user input identifying a first indexing prompt” (ex. Letter) “corresponding to a first user-selectable index” and “responsive to the first user input, [the system] provides simultaneously in the

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first display order at least a portion of the media titles corresponding to the first user-selectable index and the user-selected category (Col 28, Lines 16-49).

The reference, however, is silent with respect to “determining a range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices, the range of values being determined according to the number of media titles in the portion of the received media information corresponding to the respective range of values”. In a related art pertaining to the display of program guide information, the Eick et al. reference provides evidence that it is known in the art to “determining a range of values of the media information parameter corresponding to each index in a plurality of user-selectable indices, [wherein] the range of values [is] determined according to the number of media titles in the portion of the received media information corresponding to the respective range of values” (Figures 16 – 22; Col 9, Line 51 – Col 10, Line 19; Col 89 – Col 110 – “Select form code”). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the Lajoie et al. “selectable indices” so as to be based upon the particular number of underlying entries for the purpose of advantageously providing a view of a large schedule of data items with a sufficiently small number of items in order to provide the view with an opportunity to make a reasoned selection therefrom (Eick et al.: Col 2, Lines 30-36).

Claims 3 and 39 are rejected wherein the “range of values defining each user-selectable index is selected from a group consisting of: an alphanumeric character [and] a plurality of alphanumeric characters” (Eick et al.: Figures 16-22).

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Claims 4 and 40 is rejected wherein the “media information parameter is selected from the group consisting of title name . . . ” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 22; Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 26).

Claims 5 and 41 are rejected wherein the method/system comprises “receiving user input identifying a media information parameter” such as Title - Letter for “indexing the media titles” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 22; Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 26

In consideration of claims 16 and 48, the LaJoie et al. reference discloses that the media guide and associated functionality is provided to cable subscribers. The reference, however, does not explicitly that cable subscribers are “charged a fee in connection with the provision of indexing functionality” associated with being allowed to access the cable provider’s network/services. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that it is notoriously well known in the art for cable service providers to charge a fee in connection with subscribing to their services including the ability to access an interactive media guide. Accordingly, it would have been obvious, if not implicit to the reference, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to “charge the user a fee in connection with the provision of indexing functionality” for the inherent advantages associated with charging subscribers usage fees including but not limited to the ability of the service provider to re-coup costs and profit from providing cable services.

Claims 32 and 34 are rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein the system “receives user input identifying the first user-selectable index” wherein “user input is initiated by the user pressing an arrow button on a remote control” (LaJoie et al.: Col 28, Lines 16-26).

Claim 35 is rejected wherein Figures 17-23 of LaJoie et al. illustrate that the “interactive media guide includes a plurality of indexing prompts and a plurality of media titles”.

Claim 38 is rejected in light of the combination of references and in particular the teachings of LaJoie et al. The LaJoie et al. reference sets forth that upon entry to the indexing by alphabetical list that the previous indexing term associated with “user input designating . . . [a] media title to be highlighted” is highlighted as the default (LaJoie et al.: Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 15). Accordingly, taken in combination in response to the user selecting a first program for viewing (ex. “CBS Sports Special) and returning to and selecting or highlighting another program (Ex. “Extreme Skiing”), the system would subsequently, “[highlight] a second user-selectable index associated with a second media title . . . in response to the client device receiving user input designating said second media title to be highlighted” upon the user returning to accessing the program Title – Theme – Letter indexing functionality.

Claim 43 is rejected wherein the “each respective range of values is further determined according to a first threshold defining a “first range of values defining the first user-selectable index is an alphanumeric character” (Eick et al.: Figures 18-20) and a “second range of values defining a second user-selectable index is at least two alphanumeric characters” (Eick et al.: Figure 22).

Claims 44, 45, and 55 are rejected wherein the “first range of values defining the first user-selectable index is an alphanumeric character” (Eick et al.: Figures 18-20) and a “second range of values defining a second user-selectable index is at least two [or a plurality of] alphanumeric characters” (Eick et al.: Figure 22).

Claims 53 and 54 are rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein the “portion of the received media information corresponds to a user-selected category” wherein the “user-selected category corresponds to the media titles in the received media information corresponding to all the movies in the media information” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 20).

Claim 57 is rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein the LaJoie et al. reference teaches that the “media titles are ordered based on both the user-selected category and the first user-selectable media” (Ex. Title – Theme – Letter).

Claim 58 is rejected wherein the “first user-selectable index and a first media title associated with said first user-selectable index are highlighted” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 22; Col 28, Lines 27-39).

10. Claims 17, 18, 21-23, 25-27, 49, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. (US Pat No. 5,850,218) and in further view of Young et al. (US Pat No. 5,808,608).

In consideration of claim 17, as aforementioned, the LaJoie et al. reference discloses a “media services client device for providing media to a user” [6] comprising a “processor” [30] and “memory for storing media information . . . corresponding to a plurality of respective accessible media” [32] which are received via a server [15]. The reference teaches that the system is operable to “determine the media titles in the received media information corresponding to . . . a user selected category” (Ex. Title – Theme), to “determine the media titles in the received media information corresponding to a user-selectable index” (Ex. Title – Letter) and to subsequently “cause a display order of the media titles in the received media information” (Figures 20-23). The reference further discloses that the system is operable

when sorting by Title – Theme to further secondarily sort by any other set of program characteristics. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the LaJoie et al. reference, if necessary, so as “responsive to a user input, to provide simultaneously in the display order at least a portion of the media titles in the received media information corresponding to a first user-selectable index and the user-selected category” so as to allow for the user to further easily operate the set-top terminal and navigate through the abundance of programs and services available within a given category of programming in the cable television system.

With respect to the particular limitation of enabling a “plurality of user-selectable indices [corresponding to a range of at least one year] for indexing displayed media titles”, the limitation is met by LaJoie et al. In particular, the examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE as to the fact that the illustrative programs/movies with the titles “The Bridges of Madison County”, “Casablanca”, “Heat”, and “The Fugitive” were released over a range of years such as 1995, 1942, 1995, and 1993 respectively. Accordingly, the “plurality of user-selectable indices” clearly correspond to a “range of at least one year” given that the underlying programs are associated with years of release. Claim 17 does not require that the particular user-selectable indices are actual years, however, if required such a limitation may be met in view of Young et al. as will be subsequently addressed.

With respect to the limitation that the system further “causes a display order of the media titles in the received media information according to the value of the release year of the media”, as aforementioned, the LaJoie et al. reference suggests that the system is operable to further provide multiple sort criteria based upon any one or set of program characteristics.

The release year of the media is a characteristic of the media, however, the reference does not explicitly disclose the ordering of a display “according to the value of the release year of the media”. The Young et al. reference provides evidence that it is known in the art so as to provide user selectable indices which utilize the “value of the release year of the media” in accordance with “causing a display order of the media titles in the received media information according to the value of the release year of the media” (Young et al.: Col 13, Line 60 – Col 15, Line 23). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify LaJoie et al., as suggested, so as to utilize other program characteristics in connection with indexing program titles including the utilization of the “value of the release year of the media” as an user-selectable index and the further “causing [of] a display order of the media titles in the received media information according to the value of the release year of the media” as taught by Young et al. for the purpose of ordering the display of information most conveniently for the user based upon available program characteristics (Young et al.: Col 2, Lines 43-57).

Claim 18 is rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein “only media titles belonging to a sub-list of media titles”, or those corresponding to the user-selected index or category is “presented to the user” in light of the combined references (LaJoie et al.: Col 6, Lines 29-46).

Claims 21 and 23 are rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein the system “receives user input identifying the first user-selectable index” wherein “user input is initiated by the user pressing an arrow button on a remote control” (LaJoie et al.: Col 28, Lines 16-26).

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Claim 22 is rejected wherein the “media titles are ordered based on the user-selected category and the first user-selectable index” in light of the combined references (LaJoie et al.: Col 27, Lines 24-28).

Claim 25 is rejected wherein the “first user-selectable index and a first media title associated with said first user-selectable index are highlighted” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 22; Col 28, Lines 27-39).

In consideration of claim 26, the LaJoie et al. reference sets forth that a media title may be highlighted in response or subsequent to the user designating that particular user selectable index (Col 28, Lines 16-39). Accordingly, the reference meets the limitation “wherein a second media title associated with a second user-selectable index is highlighted in response to the client device receiving user input designating said second user-selectable index to be highlight” in connection with the user selecting a program and index other than an established default.

Claim 27 is rejected in light of the combination of references and in particular the teachings of LaJoie et al. The LaJoie et al. reference sets forth that upon entry to the indexing by alphabetical list that the previous indexing term associated with “user input designating . . . [a] media title to be highlighted” is highlighted as the default (LaJoie et al.: Col 27, Line 64 – Col 28, Line 15). Accordingly, taken in combination in response to the user selecting a first program for viewing (ex. “CBS Sports Special) and returning to and selecting or highlighting another program (Ex. “Extreme Skiing”), the system would subsequently, “[highlight] a second user-selectable index associated with a second media title . . . in response to the client device receiving user input designating said second media title to

be highlighted” upon the user returning to accessing the program Title – Theme – Letter indexing functionality.

Claim 49 is rejected in light of the aforementioned wherein the “user-selected category corresponds to the media titles in the received media information corresponding to all the movies in the media information” (LaJoie et al.: Figure 20).

In consideration of claim 50, the “user-selected category corresponds a portion of the media titles in the received media information corresponding to one from . . . drama” as in the case of the designation of the user-selected category “Movie” which corresponds to media titles such as commonly recognized the Movie/Drama entitled “The Bridges of Madison County” (LaJoie: Figure 25).

Claim 51 is rejected wherein a “first range of values corresponding to the first user-selectable index is a year, and a second range of values corresponding to a second user-selectable index is a plurality of years” (Young et al.: Col 14, Lines 56-64).

11. Claims 46, 47, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. (US Pat No. 5,850,218), view of Eick et al. (US Pat No. 5,812,124), and in further view of Young et al. (US Pat No. 5,808,608).

In consideration of claims 46, 47, and 56, the combination of LaJoie et al. and Eick et al. is silent with respect to the “media information parameter corresponding to a media release year . . . “ as recited in the claims. However, as aforementioned, the LaJoie et al. reference suggests that the system is operable to further provide multiple sort criteria based upon any one or set of program characteristics. The release year of the media is a characteristic of the media. The Young et al. reference provides evidence that it is known in the art so as to

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utilize a “media information parameter corresponding to a media release year, the first range of values defining the first user-selectable index is a year, and a second range of values defining a second user-selectable index is a plurality of years” (Young et al.: Col 13, Line 60 – Col 15, Line 23). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify LaJoie et al., as suggested, so as to utilize other program characteristics in connection with indexing program titles including the utilization of the “value of the release year of the media” as an user-selectable index as taught by Young et al. for the purpose of ordering the display of information most conveniently for the user based upon available program characteristics (Young et al.: Col 2, Lines 43-57). Furthermore, it would have subsequently have been obvious to utilize other data, as suggested in the source code, such the aforementioned media release year in accordance with the teachings of Eick et al. for added flexibility in connection with providing a view of a large schedule of data items with a sufficiently small number of items in order to provide the view with an opportunity to make a reasoned selection therefrom (Eick et al.: Col 2, Lines 30-36).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objections made.

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- The Beck (US Pat No. 3,676,580) reference provides evidence that it is known in the art to charge a fee for cable services.
- The Etheredge (US Pat No. 6,018,372) reference discloses a system and method for implementing an electronic programming guide which indexes programming based upon a range of values.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Beliveau whose telephone number is 571-272-7343.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEB
June 7, 2005



JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600